Chapter 9 X Birth of a Mermaid: Part 1

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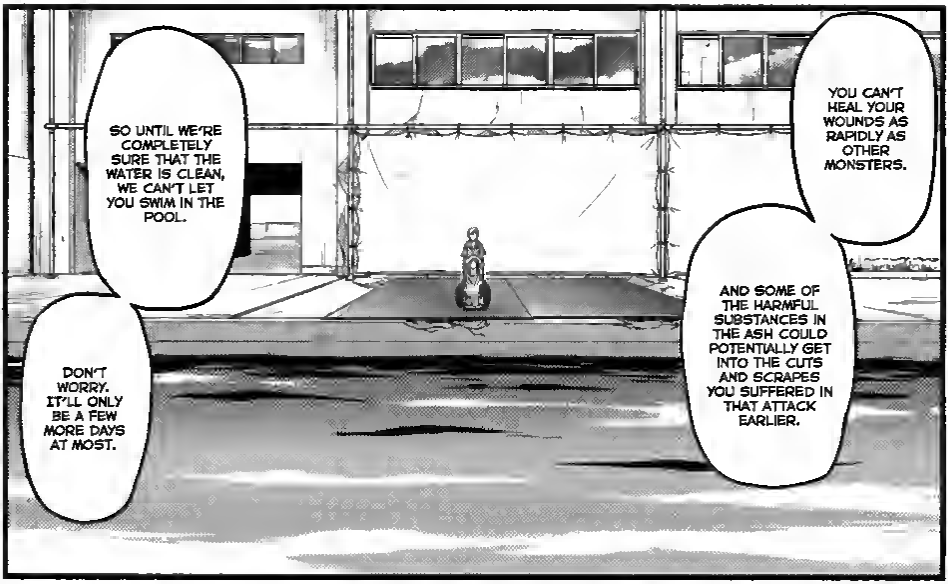
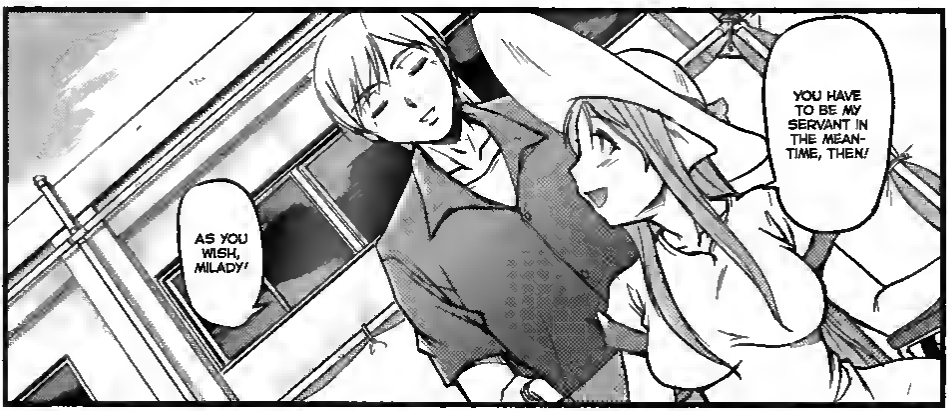
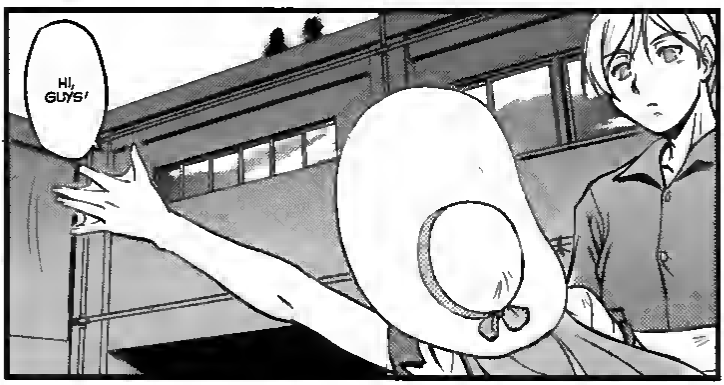
チャッ！
WHAT DO YOU THINK?

THAT WAS ONE OF HIS?
GREAT BARREL, VERY SMOOTH BOLT, AND A FEATHER-LIGHT TRIGGER TO BOOT.
NO WONDER KURT LIKED IT SO MUCH!
IT'S NICE!
WHY DON'T YOU JUST HAND IT OVER TO YOUR BIG SIS NOW...
HUH? NO WAY!
OH!
OF COURSE NOT!
I DON'T LIKE THE WAY YOU'RE LOOKING AT IT, ROSE...
ARE YOU GONNA LICK IT OR SOMETHING?
FAIR'S FAIR, MARIE!

LOOK WHO'S HERE...
HEY, CHRIS?
IS IT OKAY FOR ME TO GET BACK IN THE POOL NOW?
SORRY, BUT WE'RE STILL CLEANING THE ASH AWAY FROM THAT LAST MONSTER.

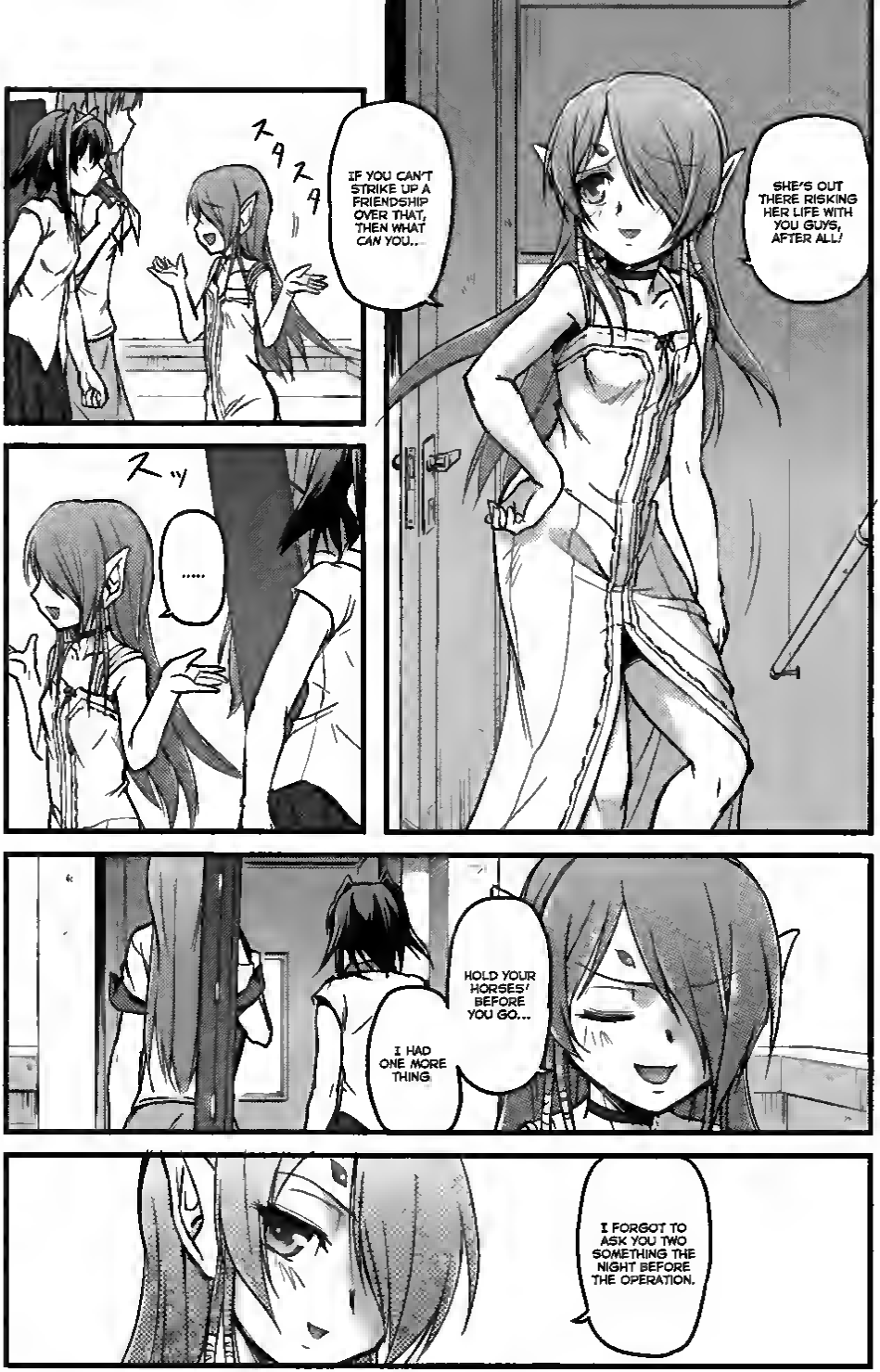

YOU CAN'T HEAL YOUR WOUNDS AS RAPIDLY AS OTHER MONSTERS.
AND SOME OF THE HARMFUL SUBSTANCES IN THE ASH COULD POTENTIALLY GET INTO THE CUTS AND SCRAPES YOU SUFFERED IN THAT ATTACK EARLIER.
SO UNTIL WE'RE COMPLETELY SURE THAT THE WATER IS CLEAN, WE CAN'T LET YOU SWIM IN THE POOL.
DON'T WORRY. IT'LL ONLY BE A FEW MORE DAYS AT MOST.


YOU HAVE TO BE MY SERVANT IN THE MEAN-TIME, THEN!
AS YOU WISH, MILADY!

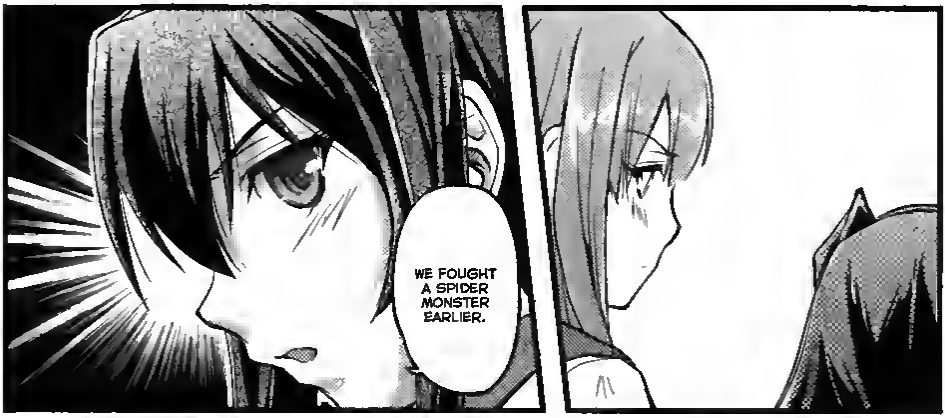

HI, GUYS!

OH!

THAT'S FUNNY... MAYBE THEY DIDN'T SEE US?
HUH?
YOU KNOW, YOU DON'T HAVE TO GIVE HER THE RED-CARPET TREATMENT...
BUT WOULD IT KILL YOU TWO TO BE JUST A TINY BIT NICER TO SYLVIA?


SHE'S OUT THERE RISKING HER LIFE WITH YOU GUYS, AFTER ALL!
IF YOU CAN'T STRIKE UP A FRIENDSHIP OVER THAT, THEN WHAT CAN YOU...
.....
HOLD YOUR HORSES! BEFORE YOU GO...
I HAD ONE MORE THING.
I FORGOT TO ASK YOU TWO SOMETHING THE NIGHT BEFORE THE OPERATION.

WHY DO YOU TWO DISTRUST ME AND SYLVIA SO MUCH? DON'T THINK WE DON'T NOTICE THE LOOKS ON YOUR FACES WHEN YOU TALK TO US.
SURELY YOU'VE GROWN A *LITTLE* MORE COMFORTABLE WITH US AFTER ALL THAT'S HAPPENED!

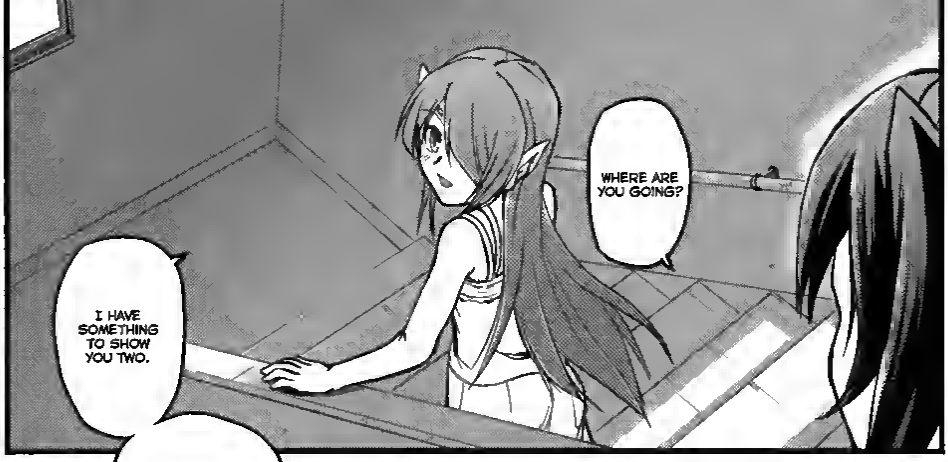

WE FOUGHT A SPIDER MONSTER EARLIER.

IT WORE CLOTHES AND POSED AS A HUMAN TO LURE WOMEN INTO ITS CLUTCHES SO IT COULD DEVOUR THEM.
AND ONCE WE KILLED IT...
I REALIZED SOMETHING.

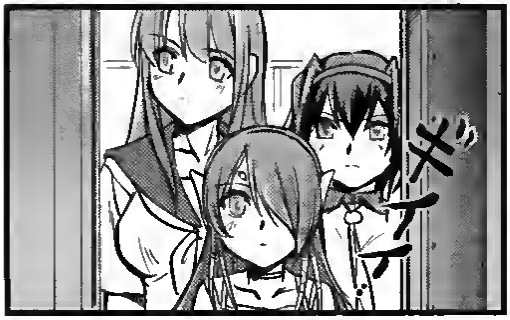
BUT I THINK THAT YOU. .
AND SYLVIA...
I SHOULD HAVE FIGURED IT OUT AFTER THE INCIDENT WITH DR. MARTIN.
BUT NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT MORE...
MAY HAVE TAKEN ON HUMAN FORM AFTER KILLING HUMANS YOURSELVES.
YOU'VE FIGURED IT ALL OUT.
ニヤ!
SO I SEE.
AHH...

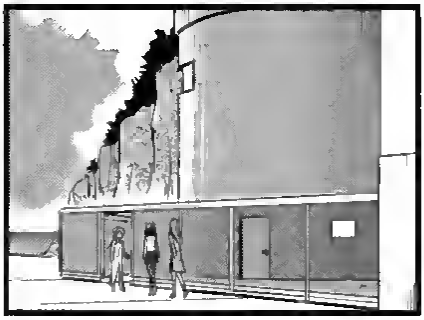
IT'S NOT A BAD THEORY, THOUGH.
.. IS WHAT YOU PROBABLY *WANT* ME TO SAY, BUT IT'S JUST NOT THE CASE.
MONSTERS CAN'T ALTER THEIR PHYSICAL CHARACTERSTICS BASED ON WHAT THEY KILL OR EAT.
BELIEVE ME, WITH HOW HARD DR. MARTIN THREW HIMSELF INTO HIS RESEARCH, HE'D KNOW IF IT WERE TRUE.
BUT AFTER ALL HIS THEORIZING AND EXPERIMENTING, HIS LACK OF RESULTS SHOULD BE ALL THE PROOF ANYONE WOULD NEED.
..ha
Ha ha ha ha!
I'D HAVE SPROUTED A PAIR OF WINGS BY NOW, WHAT WITH ALL THE CHICKEN I EAT!
OH, IF ONLY THAT WAS HOW THINGS WORKED!

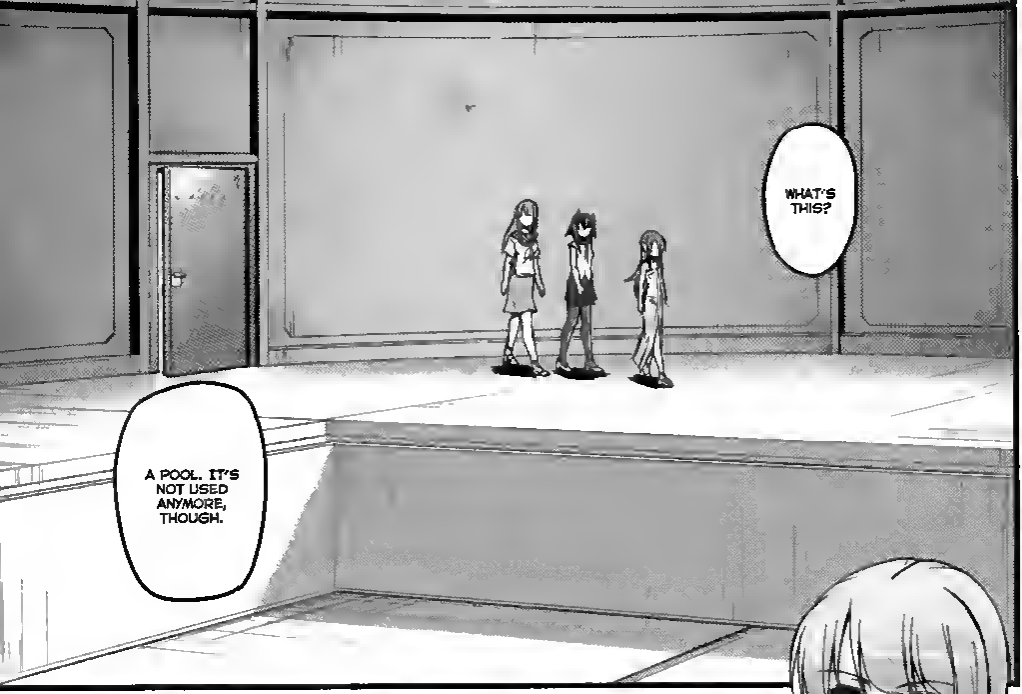
HMM...
YOU HAVE A POINT.
PHEW...
YOU CAN CHUCKLE ALL YOU WANT...
BUT WHAT REASON DO WE HAVE TO TRUST *YOUR* WORD ON THE MATTER?
HOW FITTING THAT WE HAVE THIS CONVERSATION *HERE*, OF ALL PLACES.
PERHAPS IT'S FATE.
FOLLOW ME

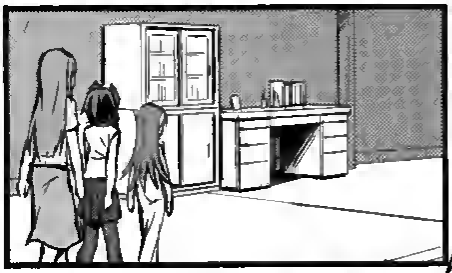

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
I HAVE SOMETHING TO SHOW YOU TWO.

I CAN PROVE THAT YOUR IDEA CAN'T APPLY TO SYLVIA, AT THE VERY LEAST.






WHAT'S THIS?
A POOL. IT'S NOT USED ANYMORE, THOUGH.



AH! HERE WE ARE.

BUT WHENEVER CHRIS COMES TO THIS FACILITY, HE NEVER MISSES A CHANCE TO COME DOWN TO THIS ROOM.

THE MAN WITH THE BEARD WAS THE HEAD SCIENTIST.
THESE ARE THE RESEARCHERS WHO USED TO WORK DOWN HERE.
HE WORKED FOR THE ORGANIZATION AS A SPECIALIST IN MARINE BIOLOGY.
HIS NAME WAS DR. ROGER CARPENTER.
Flop!
AND AS LUCK WOULD HAVE IT, HIS OLD RESEARCH DIARY IS STILL LYING AROUND.

TAKE A LOOK.
OH! JUST WHAT I WAS LOOKING FOR.
ISN'T SHE A CUTE LITTLE GIRL?
THAT'S HIS DAUGHTER HANGING OFF HIS ARM THERE.
HER NAME WAS SYLVIA CARPENTER.
YOU MIGHT BE FAMILIAR WITH HER.

PRECISELY.

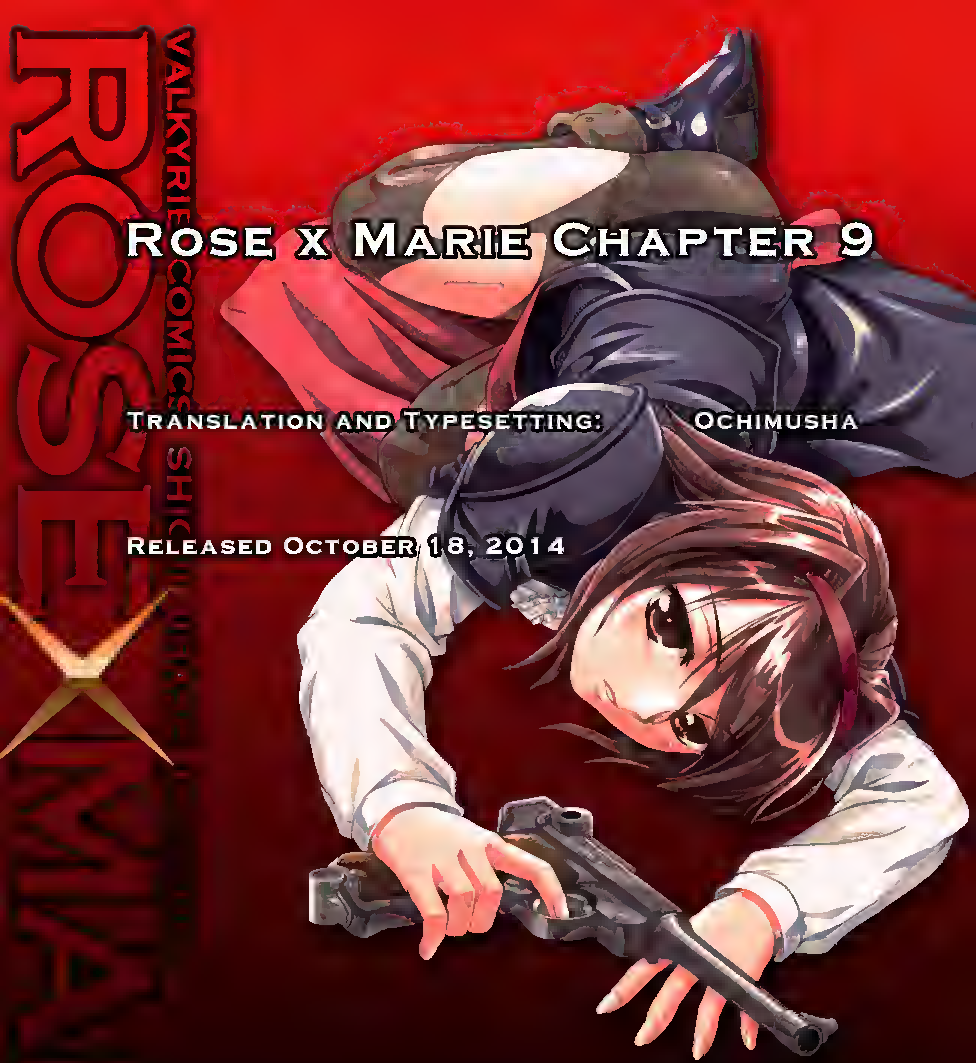
...!
YOU DON'T MEAN...?!

AT ONE POINT, SYLVIA WAS HUMAN...

JUST THE SAME AS YOU TWO.

ROSE × MARIE

VALKYRIE COMICS SHIOJI URASE PRESENTS



Rose x Marie Chapter 9

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Check with your registrar about earning partial credit in Monstro-Biology after finishing Volume 2.

On a completely unrelated note, do you ever feel that you're your own worst enemy? I've been a bit stressed out lately as I try and get a variety of things done in the time I have, and I think I just make it worse on myself by worrying about it. Fortunately there's just one more chapter in Volume 2. Let's hope I can get that done before the leaves finish falling.

Say hi and keep up with releases at http://ochimusha.wordpress.com